

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00020 151535Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

IO-14 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01

OPR-02 /113 W

----- 105713

R 151200Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2414

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

S E C R E T LUANDA 020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, AO, CF, CG

SUBJ: CABINDA, ANGOLA, ZAIRE

REF: A. BRUSSELS 0206; B. LUANDA A-74, OCT 12,1972

1. SUMMARY. PORTUGUESE MILITARY STRENGTH IN CABINDA IS BEING AUGMENTED IN RESPONSE ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RECENT ANTI-PORTUGUESE SPEECH. PORTUGUESE NOT EXPECTING ATTACK BY ZAIRE ALTHOUGH INCREASED INFILTRATION (CHIEFLY MPLA FROM CONGO) PROBABLE IN THEIR VIEW. CABINDA GULF REMAINS UNCONCERNED.

2. CONGEN OFFICER VISITED CABINDA JAN 8-11 TO ASSESS REPORTED INCREASE IN PORTUGUESE MILITARY DEPLOYMENT THERE AND/OR CHANGES IN LOCAL MILITARY'S ASSESSMENT OF MOBUTU'S INTENTIONS. (JOINED BY MCDONALD AF/S JAN 10).

3. PORTUGUESE ARMY TROOP STRENGTH IN CABINDA HAS BEEN ABOUT 3,500 IN THREE BATTALIONS AT CABINDA TOWN, BUCU ZAU AND BELIZE. TROOPS APPEAR TO BE ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT METROPOLITAN WHITES, 25 PERCENT NON-BLACK ANGOLANS AND 25 PERCENT BLACK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00020 151535Z

ANGOLANS. NUMBERS HAVE BEEN AUGUMENTED SINCE NOVEMBER

MOBUTU SPEECH, BUT LOCAL MILITARY UNWILLING TO REVEAL PRECISE FIGURES. WE GUESS PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 200 TO DATE. NEWLY EVIDENT IS PRESENCE OF SMALL NUMBER (UP TO 20 AT ONE TIME) OF UNARMED TROOPS ON STREETS OF CABINDA TOWN, APPARENTLY KILLING TIME UNTIL POSTS IN COUNTRY-SIDE CAN BE EXPANDED TO HOUSE THEM.

4. ONLY EVIDENT BUILDUP OF STRENGTH FACING ZAIRE IS AT CROSSROADS 7 KMS. FROM IEMA BORDER CROSSING WHERE PREVIOUS 30 MAN CAMP BEING EXPANDED SLOWLY TO ABOUT 150. ABOUT HALF OF INCREASE ALREADY IN TENTS AT BASE. NO TROOPS CLOSER TO ZAIRE BORDER THAN 7 KMS. FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S SPEECH ZAIRE AUTHORITIES CLOSED THIS CROSSING TO VEHICLES, BUT NOT PEDESTRIANS. (THERE ARE NUMEROUS UNATTENDED BORDER CROSSING POINTS WHERE VEHICLES CAN MEET AND TRANSFER GOODS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM CUSTOMS. CABINDA-CONGO BORDER AT MASSABI REPORTEDLY STILL OPEN.)

5. GERMAN JOURNALIST WHOM CONGEN OFFICER MET IN CABINDA REPORTED CONVERSATION (IN ANGOLA) WITH A BELGIAN NATIONAL WHO LIVES IN ZAIRE WHO TOLD HIM ZAIRE ARMY OFFICERS TALKING OPENLY OF IMPENDING ZAIRIAN "INVASION" OF ANGOLA. JOURNALIST OF OPINION, BASED ON EXTENSIVE EX-BELGIAN CONGO CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE, THAT REAL INVASION UNLIKELY IN SPITE RUMORS. HIS REASON: LACK OF SUFFICIENT DEPENDABLE TROOPS AND FEAR OF ANTI-MOBUTU COUP IF LOYALISTS TROOPS USED FOR INVASION.

6. CABINDA MILITARY, INCLUDING DISTRICT GOVERNOR WHO IS ACTIVE DUTY COL. AND IN EFFECT DISTRICT MILITARY CHIEF, UNANIMOUS IN TERMING OPEN ATTACK BY ZAIRIAN FORCES "POSSIBLE BUT NOT PROBABLE." PORTUGUESE MILITARY APPEAR STILL TO FEEL MOBUTU "TOO SMART" FOR SUCH AN ADVENTURE.

7. MILITARY WORRY MORE ABOUT EXPECTED INCREASE IN MPLA INFILTRATION FROM CONGO IN NORTHEAST TIP. NOW APPEARS LARGEST PORTION MANPOWER INCREASE WILL IN FACT GO TO BATTALION HQ AT BELIZE, 35 KMS. FROM CONGO BORDER IN NORTHEAST. (BATTALION AT BELIZE RESPONSIBLE FOR 30 MAN MICONGE BORDER POST THAT WAS TARGET 2 HR. ATTACK OCT 8, 1973 BY MPLA UNIT FIRING FROM INSIDE CONGO. ALTHOUGH LONDON OBSERVER SAID BASE WAS DESTROYED, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00020 151535Z

LITTLE SIGN OF DAMAGE DISCERNIBLE AND ONLY ONE PORTUGUESE SOLDIER REPORTEDLY WAS KILLED, FIFTEEN WOUNDED. OBSERVER ERRONEOUSLY LOCATED MICONGE 15 MILES INSIDE CABINDA; IT IS RIGHT ON BORDER.)

8. U.S. OWNED CABINDED GULF COMPANY HAS NOT TAKEN ANY VISIBLE STEPS TO BEEF-UP ITS SECURITY I* CABONDA EXCEPT ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENT OF HALF DOZEN PORTUGUESE MARINES TO PATROL COMPANY'S

INSTALLATIONS. PORTUGUESE NAVY FRIGATE WAS ANCHORED 200 YARDS OFFSHORE AND TWO MILES SOUTH OF PUMPING EQUIPMENT ON JAN 11.

9. COMMENT: IF REASONABLE SURPRISE COULD BE MAINTAINED, SMALL WELL-TRAINED MOTORIZED ZAIRE FORCE COULD CONCEIVABLY REACH CABINDA TOWN (10 KMS. FROM BORDER) WITH MINIMAL LOSSES IF IT MOVED AT NIGHT TO AVOID PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. PORTUGUESE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BUT ARE COUNTING ON MOBUTU'S NOT BEING INCLINED TO TAKE SUCH A STEP. FURTHER-MORE, WE ASSUME THEIR INTELLIGENCE SUFFICIENTLY GOOD TO BE ABLE TO COUNTER ANY SURPRISE ATTACK.
BRIGGS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740141/aaaabmok.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BRUSSELS 0206; B. LUANDA A-74, OC, T 12,1972
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINDA, ANGOLA, ZAIRE
TAGS: MILI, PINS, AO, CF, CG, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005